


# Dunn County Health Department



## Annual Report 2018





*The Mission of the  
Dunn County Health  
Department is to pro-  
mote the health of all  
people in the commu-  
nity by collaborating  
with community part-  
ners, working toward  
a safe and healthy en-  
vironment, preventing  
disease and disability  
and promoting posi-  
tive health practices.*

**A basic principle** of public health is that all people have a right to health. Equity, then, as understood in public health literature and practice, is when everyone has the opportunity to “attain their full health potential” and no one is “disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of their social position or other socially determined circumstance.” Brennan Ramirez LK, Baker EA, Metzler M. Promoting Health Equity: A Resource to Help Communities Address Social Determinants of Health. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health

The Dunn County report of the Committee on Charities, November 12, 1935, organized a County Health Department. The first meeting was held December 6, 1935 and officers were organized; the second meeting was December 24, 1935 and applications were reviewed for the position of County Nurse. The primary work of the nurse included: an infant and maternal health program, prevention and control of communicable diseases, building up the health of school children, tuberculosis control and crippled children’s follow up program.

For the past 80 years, the work continues, benefited by advances in science and knowledge about disease process, antibiotics and anti-viral medications now available for treatment and new challenges in the areas of chronic disease, emerging infections related to climate change and challenges in protecting environmental health. Our socio-economic climate and health care system also require that Public Health examine ways to promote health equity. In other words, equal opportunities to be healthy.



## Equality



## Equity



Health related quality of life is also the focus of the Wisconsin 2020 Health Plan. It describes the essential elements of working toward optimal public health as effective policies and health systems; healthy, safe and resilient communities, families and individuals; reduced disease, injury and disability all leading toward the goals of improved health across the lifespan and health equity.

### Our 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment identified these priorities:

- Obesity, Physical Activity & Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Alcohol & other Drug Abuse
- Environment, Natural Resources Sustainability & the "Built" environment

### Health Dunn Right

The Health Department continues to work with the Community Foundation of Dunn County, UW-Stout, Mayo Health System as well as many community non-profits, local businesses, government agencies and citizens to create a collaborative Health Coalition. With community feedback, the coalition has been renamed

"Health Dunn Right". Significant support from UW-Stout enabled the creation of a bright logo signaling a period of growth.

### Health Equity & Health Equality

Health equity is the goal of achieving the highest level of health for all people regardless of differences in social, economic or environmental conditions.

**The staff continues to fulfill the statutory requirements of a Level 3 public health department. This includes collaborative coalition work to improve the health of the community.**

### Health Department Committee Support:

Health Dunn Right  
Dunn County Partnership for Youth  
Mental Health Resource Network  
Prevent Suicide Chippewa Valley  
Bicycle-Ped. Advisory Committee  
Community Crisis Response Team  
"Eat Well Dunn County"  
Dunn County Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Regional Prenatal Care Workgroup



## Dunn County Demographics

Population- est. 44,693 (44,704)  
 Births 2018- 443 (424)  
 Births to mothers age=<19 - 9 (9)  
 Deaths 2018- 364 (341)

The leading causes of death in Dunn County are cancer, diseases of the heart and accidents.



### 2018 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) FOR A FAMILY OF 4 \$25,100 (\$24,600)

	<i>Dunn County</i>	<i>State of WI</i>
% of people with an income ≤ the poverty level*	12.8% (14.2%)	12.3% (12.7%)
Median household income	\$54,605 (\$51,787)	\$ 56,759 (\$54,610)
Child poverty level	13% (15%)	15% (17.4%)

#### The Health Department is funded by:

- Local tax levy
- \$606,014 (\$627,620)
- Program generated revenue
- \$303,173 (\$395,508)
- Grants, including state aids
- \$ 350,851 (\$321,952)

#### Dunn County 2017 per capita funding:

- Local taxes
- \$13.55 (\$14.04)
- Total funding
- \$28.19 (\$30.09)

Please note that 2018 data is listed first, with 2017 equivalent data listed in parenthesis.

## Dunn County Health Department

### 2018 Board of Health

#### Elected Board Members:

Mary Solberg, Chair  
 Gary Stene, Vice  
 Larry Bjork

Sarah Kennedy  
 Tom Quinn

#### Appointed Board Members:

Sarah Schaefer, RN  
 Bonnie Barker  
 Bill Lamb

#### BOH Medical Advisor-

Dr. Jennifer Strong

### 2018 Health Department Staff

#### Health Officer

KT Gallagher, MPA, Director

#### Public Health Nursing

Debra Benoit, ADN, RN  
 Kelli Dwyer ADN, RN  
 Sheila Haugle, BSN, RN  
 Sara Hegeman, BSN, RN  
 Jo Ann Rucker BSN, RN  
 Suzanne Schnoor, BSN, RN

#### Environmental Health

Thomas Aarrestad, MA, EH Tech  
 Keith Bergeson, BS, EHS, RS

#### Public Health Nutrition Staff

Ellen Blumer, RD  
 Holly Cseter, BS, Dietetic Tech  
Support Staff

Sifia Jevne, Fiscal Clerk III  
 Donna Kraemer, Sec II  
 Barbara Niemi-Arntzen, Sec II  
 LeeAnn Wold, Fiscal Clerk I  
 Zoua Yang, Public Health Tech

Dunn County Health Department program areas are highlighted below. Please note that 2018 program outputs are listed first, with 2017 equivalent outputs listed in parenthesis.

## **Public Health Multipurpose Clinics**

Public Health Nurses conduct TB skin tests, immunizations, blood pressure checks, hearing re-checks, health education and referrals. They are available onsite for drop in consults and appointments during working hours at the health department. They also have scheduled clinics quarterly at a satellite location in Colfax.

**Follow-up referrals 41 (53)**

## **Maternal and Child Health**

Prenatal Care Coordination, Nurse Family Partnership, WIC, Reproductive Health, and Public Health program areas, including early identification of pregnancy, individual support services, prenatal care, health and nutrition education and referrals to community .

**PNCC and NFP clients– 34 (47) and 345 (128) visits**

**Oral health care** In 2018 the department provided education, screening and toothbrushes with visits for immunizations, and referrals for dental care to area dentists and the Marshfield Dental Clinic. Partners in oral health Programs-Head Start, CVTC, area dental and medical providers, area schools, fluoridated municipal water systems. **Fluoride supplements: 42 (91) children. Fluoride rinse program: 626 (655) public school children.**

**The WIC program** (Women, Infants and Children) provides nutrition education and breastfeeding support for Dunn County families, as well as supplemental food, to families at or below 185% poverty level. The WIC program was established in 1974 and has earned the reputation of being one of the most successful federally-funded nutrition programs in the U.S.

**Number of individuals served/mo – 580 (634)**

**Food dollars redeemed- \$396,480 (\$341,024)**

**Breastfeeding Initiation rate- 77.8% (71.2%)**

**Farmer's Market \$ redeemed-\$3,594 (\$3,210)**

### **POSITIVE NFP OUTCOMES for DUNN County**

Babies received all immunizations  
by 18 months **100%**

Babies born at a healthy weight and  
full term **86%**

Babies breastfed until 1 year **66%**

*Cumulative data as of 12/01/2018,  
clients served by Dunn County Nurse-Family Partnership.*

## **Mental Health**

Perinatal and postpartum depression screening is included in the PNCC, NFP and WIC programs.

We partner with the Mental Health Resource Network to keep up to date with trends and resources as well as program sharing and development. We work with the regional coalition Prevent Suicide Chippewa Valley.

We work with DCHS, UW-Stout, RCMC, Marshfield Clinic, schools and other partners to provide referrals for mental health

Program areas cont.

## **Environmental and Occupational Health**

### **Inspections and Licensing**

**Campgrounds 6 (7)**

**B & B 5 (5)**

**Tourist Rooming Houses 5 (4)**

**Tattoo 5 (4)**

**Camps 3 (3)**

**Hotels & Motels 10 (9)**

**Food & Bev 136 (128)**

**Retail 66 (54)**

**Swimming Pools 11 (11)**

**Hot Tubs 4 (4)**

**Schools 15 (15)**

**Temporary Food & Lodging 27 (29)**

**Complaints-EH responded to 82 (87) citizen**

complaints, this can include housing, food service, etc.

**Rabies Control Program** Animal bite follow up and education.

**Dog Bites 30 (17)**

**Cat bites 18 (12)**

**Other 7 (10)**

**Radon Information Center** Dunn County coordinates the program testing information and supplies for Dunn, St. Croix, Pierce, Barron and Sawyer Counties. Any elevated test results require follow-up by the Environmental Health Specialist in the county of the test.

**Tests completed by homeowners-254 (180)**

**Elevated tests-123 (123)**

**Dunn County radon tests- 43 (56)**

**Dunn County tests: elevated- 21 (16)**

## **Well Water and Surface Water Protection**

We continue to partner with citizen groups, DNR and the zoning office to protect the groundwater and surface water. The health department offers information about private well water testing as well as test kits. Our website includes test result data for nitrates in Dunn County.

**Private well tests 40 (23)**

**DNR contract for well sampling: Total 97 (97)**

**Dunn County facilities 77 (77)** (churches, rural restaurants that serve to the public) **Return visits 14 (20)** **Inspections 21 (16)**

**Pepin County facilities, 20 (20) samples, 5 (4) well inspections -Return visits 11 (2)**

**Well Delegation 2018 Permits-119 (104) Revenue: \$8925.(\$7800)**

### **Lead Poisoning Prevention and Investigation**

We have one PHN and one EHS that maintain certification in lead investigation. Participating families receive lead poisoning prevention screening, tests, and if any levels are elevated, a visit by the EHS and PHN to determine risks and remediation.

Number of children tested for lead:

**Total-293 (260) Dunn Co HD 92 (73)**

**Number of Lead Investigations 5 (12)**

The Environmental Health Specialist provides community education for future food service managers, home builders, realtors and other individuals/groups.

**Complaints by citizens (well water, housing, mold, licensed facilities, hazardous waste)-82 (87)** complaints were followed up and resolved by the EHS.

Program areas cont.

### **Reproductive and Sexual Health**

**Reproductive Health Program**—One RN and one-part time support staff person provided health screening, information, referral and treatment for Dunn County women of childbearing age, men seeking prevention/treatment services and help with medical assistance enrollment. Staffing changes have resulted in gaps in service. The department has filled these gaps by contracting with Mayo Clinic to provide two mid-level providers twice a month to perform physical exam and long acting reversible contraception placements/removals.

**Women receiving Early Identification of Pregnancy (pregnancy testing) 86 (80)**

**Number of RSH clients- Total— 377 (401) unduplicated clients and a total of 994 (1125) visits.**

Community education—PH staff nurses work with schools, agencies and parents, teaching about sexuality issues, healthy relationships and resources.

HIV/STD testing, referral, treatment and education is available within this program. The HIV follow up has changed to a regional center with Eau Claire County providing the service.

The Health Department collaborates with The Bridge, Law Enforcement (City and County), UW-Stout, Marshfield Clinic & Red Cedar-Mayo, WI ARC and WI Department of Public Health with our sexual health outreach and education for the prevention of risks and communicable disease.

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### **Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention**

Car Seat Safety program—we provide car seat safety checks for families and have grant funding to provide education and car seats on a sliding fee schedule .

**Total number of seats provided & checked —120 (102)**

**Total number of bike helmets provided—6**

Health Department staff maintain child safety seat certification and present to groups regarding child seat safety, provide Facebook and website safety information.

We collaborate with Dunn Co. Solid Waste, Lion's club, Community Health Foundation and RCMC for safe medication and sharps disposal.

WIC and public health nursing provide nutrition and diabetes prevention referrals, education and counseling. The CDC reports the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes for adults in Dunn County is 9.4%.

We include Back to sleep and Shaken Baby information in our parent teaching for SIDS and Shaken Baby risk reduction.

We have purchased pack n play's and will distribute them to families in our PNCC program or otherwise at risk for unsafe sleep practices.



Program areas cont.

## **Communicable Disease Prevention and Control**

WI Statute DHS 145 requires all reportable communicable diseases to be directed to the local public health agency for investigation, control and prevention of any spread among the population. The WI Electronic Disease Surveillance System-WEDSS connects with CDC reporting and we also rely on timely communication from providers.

## **Communicable Disease Statistics**

These are the counts of communicable diseases that have been reported to the health department over a three-year period. We receive electronic reports from the WI State Lab of Hygiene, Marshfield Clinic, Mayo Health Systems, UW-Stout, area hospitals. Other reports are phoned in to the health department. We investigate all cases of reportable communicable disease to prevent/control disease spread and protect the public's health. We continue to provide tuberculosis (TB) testing and follow up. **TB skin testing 588 (445)**

**Vaccinations for Children program: 69% (70%)** of Dunn County children under the age of 2 years were up to date with immunizations. We work with schools and the medical community to encourage vaccinations. Our immunization clinic visits have decreased with ACA coverage of shots.

Our school summary report indicates there are still a significant number of students whose parents choose not to immunize; the majority of waivers are for "personal" reasons. Immunization status is verified through the Wisconsin Immunization Registry for all clients receiving services at the Department

**Influenza Vaccine:** In 2018 Dunn County had a total of **291 (59)** cases of influenza associated hospitalizations. We continue to encourage the population to be immunized against Vaccine Preventable Diseases. DCHD gave a total of **232 (284)** adult flu shots and **32 (73)** children's flu shots.

Infection	2016	2017	2018
Babesiosis	1	7	11
Blastomycosis	1	0	0
Campylobacter	17	22	30
Chlamydia	165	188	174
Cryptosporidium	16	14	10
STEC	8	10	17
Giardiasis	5	13	8
Gonorrhea	5	12	34
Hepatitis A	0	1	0
Hepatitis B	2	1	6
Histoplasmosis	1	0	7
HIV	1	0	0
Influenza-hospital	25	59	291
Legionellosis	0	1	3
LTBI	4	12	21
Meningitis-V/B	0	0	0
Pertussis	9	47	33
Salmonella	17	8	14
Shigellosis	1	8	9
Invasive Strep (A)	3	1	3
Tuberculosis	0	0	1
Toxoplasmosis	0	1	2
Varicella	4	5	7

Program areas cont.

### **Unhealthy Alcohol and Drug Use**

The health department participates as a member of the Dunn County Partnership for Youth and Partners for Resilience and the Mental Health Resource Network-coalitions addressing prevention efforts and healthy families. Immunizations for Hepatitis and TB and/or HIV screenings are also available to high risk adults. Individuals involved in AODA use are at higher risk for these diseases.

We continue our partnership with the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) to provide free condoms in Dunn County locations. **We have provided over 8,230 (5253) free condoms to 3 (2) bars and 5 (5) agencies.** We serve as an extension of the ARCW needle exchange site for communicable disease risk reduction. This is one evidence based harm reduction strategy with strong support. It is part of a multifaceted response to the known use of heroin/opiates in the County.

### **Tobacco Use and Exposure**

First Breath is a statewide program that helps pregnant women, new moms and their families quit smoking.

Partners in programming include: Wisconsin DPH, American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, School Districts, Mayo-Menomonie, Marshfield Clinic and Arbor Place.

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### **Students & Workforce Development**

Dunn County Health Department continues to serve as a clinical site for the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire School of Nursing. We provide a clinical practice area for senior nursing students in the baccalaureate program. The WIC program provides field experiences for Nutrition students and serves as a preceptor site for the Dietetic Intern program at UW-Stout.



This Annual Report is compiled and will be submitted to the WI Department of Health to satisfy the statutory requirement:

DHS 140.06 (2) (c) “a narrative which describes the progress and performance toward achieving the objectives identified as part of the community health assessment.”

*Respectfully submitted:*  
*KT Gallagher, MPA, REHS*  
*2018 Director/Health Officer*